

**School Board Minutes**  
**Montpelier Public School District #14**  
**214 7<sup>th</sup> Ave**  
**Montpelier, ND 58472**  
**September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Board Members Present:** Tony Roorda, Abram Valenta, Scott Harms, Dustin Lien, and Robert Froehlich.  
Absent: Lynn Boom.

**Also Present:** Superintendent Jerry Waagen, Secondary Principal James Bear, Business Manager Amy Maurer.

**Visitor:** Lori Dally.

**Call to Order:** President Roorda called the meeting to order at 6:24 pm.

**Agenda:** The following item was added to the agenda: 1) Students lost to open enrollment this year, graduates needing remedial English.

**Consent agenda:** Froehlich made a motion, seconded by Harms, to approve the following:

- a. Bills and financial reports
- b. The minutes from the August 15th, 2018 regular meeting, as presented
- c. Open enrollment applications and non-tuition agreements for seven students into the district. These students already attend here and these are updates to their paperwork for various reasons. An open enrollment and non-tuition for two students out of the district. One student recently moved into the district and will attend in Jamestown where the parent works, the other previously attended in Jamestown and will now attend in Litchville-Marion.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Secondary Principal's Report:** Mr. Bear reported: 1) He received 15 responses to his survey on the new flex-mod schedule. Thirteen responded positively with remarks that there was time for homework, the halls weren't crowded between classes, and the lunchroom was less crowded. Two responded negatively with concerns that there was too much switching from room to room and students weren't focusing on work during the resource time. 2) Juniors and seniors went to a college fair at Jamestown High School yesterday. 3) Several students coursework includes online classes including ten students who are signed up for online advanced placement courses. 4) Last week he sent out a survey as part of the school improvement plan on school climate and culture. 5) The North Dakota State Assessment scores results from last spring's testing were up significantly, with Montpelier students scoring above the state average in English/Language arts and improving in math.

**Elementary Principal's Report:** Mr. Waagen reported: 1) School got off to a good start on Monday, August 20. The student enrollment currently stands at 51 elementary, 51 grades 7-12 students for a total of 102 students a decrease of 15 students from last year. Additionally, there are eight students enrolled in preschool. 2) During the staff professional development days, staff members attended Trauma Informed Practices workshop as well as collaborating with other smaller area schools at the Gladstone Inn in Jamestown on August 14. On August 15 staff meetings were held, a review of special education accommodations, and new staff orientation occurred. 3) School buses will be inspected by the highway patrol on Thursday, September 20. 4) Jeff DeBuck will be available as a substitute bus driver this winter. 5) The fourth, fifth and sixth grade classes attended Eco-Ed Day at Pipestem Reservoir on September 5. 6) An open house/carnival for the school was held on Thursday, September 6 from 5:00-7:00 pm. A meal of carnival style foods was served and a variety of carnival games were available to students. Approximately 100 people attended and it was a huge

success. 7) He attended the athletic coop meeting with Edgeley and Kulm on Wednesday, September 5 at 7:00. Discussion was on the proposed coop agreement. Focus of discussion was on the job description for the assistant athletic director and the salary schedule for coaches. Changes may occur, which would require rescinding the previous agreement and approving the updated agreement. 8) Ed Direction made their initial visit on September 11 and 12 to observe and meet with the elementary staff members. Mr. Waagen will also be working with them two times a month. 9) Our bus drivers will be attending their annual training on September 26 in Valley City. 10) Concerns from the public to school board members may be redirected to Mr. Waagen. 11) Fifth and sixth graders visited Whitestone Hill State Historic Site.

**School Board Member Appointment:** Froehlich made a motion, seconded by Lien, to appoint Jeff Jensen as board member to fill the seat recently resigned by Julie Jansen. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

**Fuel Vendor Bids:** A request for bids for the districts gasoline and diesel was published in the Jamestown Sun. Creative Energy proposed 18 cents over cost. Allied Energy proposed 8 cents over delivered invoice. The board requested more information/clarification on the bids.

**LEA/School Compliance Report:** The reports attest to the state that the school's teachers have valid licenses, high quality teachers, a curriculum, have met certain safety requirements, and perform employee background checks. Lien made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to approve the compliance reports. The motion carried unanimously.

**Budget:** Lien made a motion, seconded by Froehlich to approve the 2018-2019 budget. The motion carried unanimously.

**Parental Involvement Policy:** The board reviewed the district's parental involvement policy.

**School Calendar:** The board concurred that the school calendar will be modified by making March 8<sup>th</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup> storm days.

**Substitute Teachers:** Froehlich made a motion, seconded by Harms, to approve Mitch Ostlie and Kristin Kietzman as substitute teachers. The motion carried unanimously.

**Superintendent Evaluation:** The evaluation must be completed by November 15<sup>th</sup>. The board concurred that the November board meeting will be changed from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> to accommodate the requirement and requested that the evaluation form be emailed around October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**NDSBA Convention:** The NDSBA Convention is October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in Bismarck.

**Students Lost/Students Needing Remedial English in College:** Concerns about having lost so many students this year were discussed. A few of the students actually moved out of state or had changes to life circumstances and so no longer attend here, but of primary concern are several local students who have chosen to open enroll to other districts. A questionnaire that was sent to the parents of students open enrolling out of the district indicated that some left for extra-curricular opportunities, some for more class offerings, some for social opportunities, and some were concerned about staff attitudes. Mr. Waagen noted that while we would be glad to have all students return to the district, that it's important to respect what parents choose for their children.

Concerns that some students are requiring remedial English when they get to college were discussed. It was noted that 1/3 of North Dakota students require remedial English when they go to college which is something that the state as a whole is making efforts to address. The most recent state assessments showed that Montpelier's students were above the state average in English Language Arts in every grade tested.

Which concerns of parents are actionable on the part of the district was discussed. A concentrated push for helping students achieve is being made in multiple ways including the flex-mod schedule in the high school and EdDirection being used for professional development in the elementary. Many students are taking advantage of online courses which provide multiple course options. Ten students are pursuing advanced placement courses online. Other ideas can be explored.

The impact on the school culture of having so many students open enrolled into the district was discussed. Over half of the district's students are open enrolled in and the district would not be viable without them. The district provides a great opportunity for these students to be successful students. Some students come with issues but learning to get along with people can be a positive opportunity for all students rather than being insulated from others. Mr. Bear noted that in the last four years there's been a total of two punches thrown and those did not necessarily involve open enrolled students.

A concentrated effort is being made to be a great school for all students who attend here.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

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Tony Roorda, Board President

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Amy Maurer, Business Manager

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Approval Date